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OCI No. 1592/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
29 July 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in Nigeria
(As of 12:30 P.M. EDT)

1. Mutinous northern army elements have overthrown General Ironsi's military regime in Nigeria. Ironsi and the military governor of Western Nigeria have been arrested by rebel Hausa troops in Ibadan, the Western capital where Ironsi has been meeting with Nigerian chiefs. One report asserts that Ironsi has been assassinated. There are unconfirmed reports that disturbances of some sort have now spread to Kaduna and Kano in the north.

2. Nigeria has now been plunged into its third and probably most serious internal crisis of the year and at this time the outcome cannot be predicted. It would seem that the very continued existence of Africa's most populous country in its present shape is in doubt. Most immediately, a general disintegration of the 10,000-man Nigerian army, which has held the country together since the military coup last January, appears a good possibility. Such a development might well lead to a large scale breakdown of order and very possibly a widespread intertribal bloodletting in which northern Hausa tribesmen and Ibos from Eastern Nigeria would be the principal antagonists.

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No. 1593/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
29 July 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in Nigeria
(As of 5:30 P.M. EDT)

1. The situation created by the mutinous actions of army elements at three locations in Western Nigeria remains highly fluid. There is no new information as to what is happening at the Abeokuta garrison some 50 miles from Lagos or as to the fate of General Ironsi, the head of the national military government who earlier was reported detained by mutineers in Ibadan, the capital of the Western region. However, as of 6:00 P.M. local time (1:00 P.M. EDT) rebellious Hausa troops were reported still in control of the Lagos airport and of the Nigerian Army's Second Battalion which is headquartered nearby. The airport itself was said to be quiet then, but fighting was reported in progress along the road leading to it as presumably loyal forces advancing from the Lagos garrison sought to retake that key facility.

2. There still have been no confirmed reports of disturbances outside of Western Nigeria, and Lagos appears definitely to have remained quiet so far.

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OCI No. 1809/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
29 July 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in Nigeria
(As of 3:30 P.M. EDT)

1. Fighting between mutinous army elements--apparently mainly northern Hausa tribesmen--and troops still loyal to the national military government evidently continues in the vicinity of the Lagos airport and at Abeokuta, a garrison in Western Nigeria about 50 miles from Lagos. Dissident elements are also active in Ibadan, the capital of Western Nigeria, where they have detained--and possibly killed--General Ironsi and probably other southern officers. There is no further information regarding possible disturbances in Kaduna, the northern capital.

2. Although today's events in Nigeria have increasingly appeared to amount to an attempt by disgruntled northern military elements to overthrow Ironsi's southern-based regime, nobody has come forward as yet with a claim to having assumed power. In fact, the leadership of the uprising has not been identified except for references to one Lt. Suleiman who is said to be leading the rebel troops now controlling the airport. He is reported to be related to the ruler of Sokoto, the chief traditional leader of the "Muslim north."

3. Lagos radio has broadcast claims, in the name of the military government, that the situation is under control. The broadcasts have announced a state of emergency and curfew in the three affected locations.

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generally quiet so far with key government buildings, including the radio station, reported under heavy guard.

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